

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, COMECON, MX

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF CEMA TEAM VISIT TO MEXICO

REF: A) MOSCOW 13210, B) 75 MOSCOW 11304

1. THE CEMA DELEGATION OF SPECIALISTS HEADED BY CEMA DEPUTY
SECRETARY EZHI SHOPA HAS SPENT TWO WEEKS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS
MEXICAN MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO DETERMINE THE FORM AND
DIRECTION OF FUTURE ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
CEMA-MEXICAN AGREEMENT (IZVESTIYA AUGUST 31). THE TALKS EXAMINED
"POSSIBILITIES AND PROPOSALS, PROJECTS FOR BROADENING THE DEVELOP-
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MENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH SIDES IN THE MOST VARIED BRANCHES

OF THE ECONOMY - IN METALLURGY, MACHINE BUILDING, THE MINING AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES, PORT CONSTRUCTION AND FISHING, CULTIVATION AND CATTLE-RAISING, THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND IN FOREIGN TRADE."

2. ACCORDING TO IZVESTIYA, AT PRESS CONFERENCE SHOPA AND MEXICAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE SAENZ REMARKED THAT THE PRESENT CEMA AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: IT FORESEES NOT ONLY A BROADENING OF TRADE RELATIONS BUT ALSO THE STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION ALONG THE LINES OF INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION, THE MUTUAL ALLOCATION OF CREDITS, EXCHANGES OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE REALIZATION OF JOINT CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS. BEFORE DEPARTING SHOPA MET WITH BOTH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.

3. COMMENT: THE CONSENSUS OF SEVERAL WESTERN ECONOMIC OFFICERS HERE IS THAT SOVIETS REALLY DO SEE CEMA AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO AS MODEL FOR FURTHER AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LDS'S. THE MEXICANS ARE REPORTEDLY LOOKING TO CEMA FOR INEXPENSIVE MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY, WHILE THE SOVIETS ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN FURTHER DEVELOPING TIES WITH OIL-PRODUCING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO ONE COLLEAGUE, THE NEXT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO NEGOTIATE A CEMA AGREEMENT WILL BE COLOMBIA.

4. THE POSSIBILITY OF MEXICAN OIL FOR CUBA (REF B) UNDOUBTEDLY MAKES THE CEMA CONNECTION WITH MEXICO ESPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE TO THE SOVIETS. END COMMENT.

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